

South OC WMA Water Quality Improvement Plan: Unnatural Water Balance

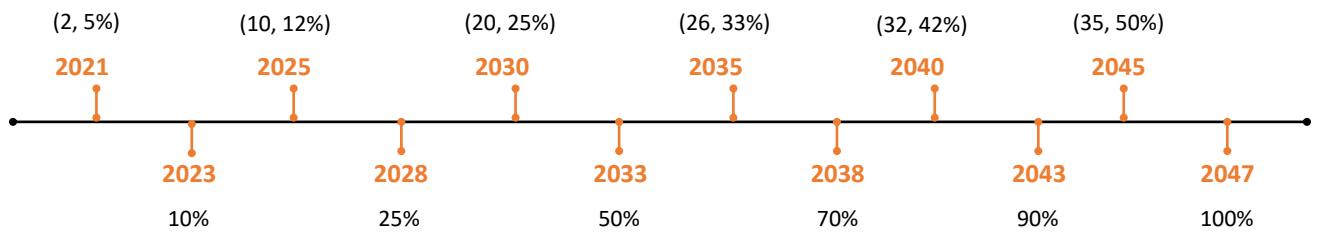
WHAT: A Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP) for the South Orange County Watershed Management Area (South OC WMA) has been accepted by the San Diego Regional Water Board. The South OC WMA WQIP identifies high priority water quality conditions (HPWQC) and sets goals, strategies, and schedules for addressing them.

Unnatural water balance is one of the HPWQCs identified in the WQIP. Water balance is defined as the ratio of inputs and outputs of water within a system, and is critical to healthy stream function. As urbanization occurs and the landscape becomes more impervious, the volume of wet weather runoff discharge increases while infiltration and evapotranspiration decrease. At the same time, the frequency and amount of dry weather runoff from over-irrigation and other sources increases (along with pollutant loads). The goal of this HPWQC is to restore a more natural water balance through a combination of non-structural (behavior changing) and structural strategies (installation of controls that capture runoff and infiltrate or reuse it).



HOW: Data on the condition of storm drain outfalls in South Orange County will be collected on a continuing basis through visual inspections and the deployment of real time flow monitoring sensors. This will drive a prioritization process that targets outfalls most impacted by unnatural water balance for action first. Water quality sampling will occur at priority outfalls that have persistent dry weather flow, in order to help identify sources, and an initial twenty outfall capture feasibility studies will be completed by 2020.

WHEN: Implementation Schedule of Outfall Control Strategies:
(# outfalls with new structural controls, % estimate of reduction in total WMA dry weather flows)



Goals in unnatural dry weather flow reductions (% compared with current levels)

INFO: The WQIP in its entirety is available to view on the OC Watershed [website](#). For more information about the South OC WMA WQIP, contact South OC Stormwater at Cindy.Rivers@ocpw.ocgov.com.



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South OC Watershed Management Area
www.ocwatersheds.com
714.955.0600

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